Message Text

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42.

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCCT-01 AID-05 CCO-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 OPR-02

PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

IO-10 PC-01 /093 W

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O R 191440Z JUL 75
FM AMCONSUL LUANDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3819
INFO AMEMBASSY KPMSHASA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI AO

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

 ${\tt SUBJECT: NO\ FNLA\ INVASION\ FORCE\ IN\ SIGHT: FNLA\ STILL\ HOLDING\ OUT;}$

LOOTING, CASUALTIES

1. BY JULY 19 NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THE MOVEMENT, OR EVEN THE EXISTENCE, OF AN FNLA COLUMN FROM THE NORTH. A SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIAL WHO FLEW INTO THE NORTH ON JULY 18 REPORTED THE INHABITANTS HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF A FORCE ON THE MOVE, NOR DID HE SPOT ANY MOVEMENTS OF LARGE BODIES OF TROOPS. WE HAVE ONE REPORT THAT FNLA LEADERS ARE HOLDING A COUNCIL OF WAR IN SAO SALVADOR AND THAT A MEETING OF THE LEADERSHIP FROM THROUGHOUT ANGOLA WILL BE HELD ON JULY 23.

2. FNLA MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MATEUS NETO HAS TOLD A SOURCE IN THE CONSULAR CORPS THAT FNLA HAS GIVEN UP HOPE OF AN EARLY CONFIDENTIAL

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INVASION OF LUANDA, BUT WILL TRY A STARVE-OUT STRATEGY. HE REALIZES

THIS WILL REQUIRE UNITA'S COOPERATION TO CUT OFF ACCESS FROM THE SOUTH. ALTHOUGH NOT CLAIMING TO HAVE SAVIMBI'S AGREEMENT, FNLA IS ENCOURAGED BY WHAT IT BELIEVES TO BE UNITA EFFORTS TO MOVE SOUTHERNERS OUT OF LUANDA. NETO CLAIMS TO REFLECT THE THINKING OF INTERIOR MINISTER NGOLA KABANGU. HE SAYS THAT JOHNNY EDQARDO IS NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH SUCH A STRATEGY.

- 3. FNLA IS STILL HOLDING OUT NORTH OF LUANDA. ONE SOURCE SAID THE FNLA CLAIMS IT IS STILL IN CONTROL OF FOUR LOCATIONS: A GARRISON IN CAZENGA GHETTO; ANOTHER BEHIND THE CUCA BREWERY; THE SAN PEDRO FORT; AND A SPOT NEAR THE REFINERY (THE FORT ITSELF IS QUITE CLOSE TO THE REFINERY). WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR THE FOREGOING: FNLA IS DEFINITELY IN THE FORT AND AT A SPOT FURTHER NORTH CALLED FAROL DE LANGOSTAS. THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY HAVE CLOSED ALL ACCESS TO THE NORTH END OF THE CITY SO THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO VERIFY WHAT IS GOING ON. IT IS TO THE NORTH THAT INDUSTRIES ARE LOCATED SO THAT THE CONTINUED FIGHTING HAS PARALYZED MUCH OF THE CITY'S INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION.
- 4. MPLA HAS BEEN BOMBARDING FNLA POSITIONS WITH MORTARS FOR TWO DAYS. THEY ARE DROPPING ROUNDS CLOSE TO THE FORT BUT NOT ON IT, AS FNLA IS HOLDING UP TO 100 MPLA PRISONERS IN THE FORT. THE BOMBARDMENT SEEMS DESIGNED TO CLEAR THE AREA AROUND THE FORT AND TO GIVE THE DEFENDERS SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.
- 5. LARGE NUMBERS OF BLACKS WENT ON A LOOTING RAMPAGE ON AVENIDA BRASIL AND IN VILA ALICE THE NIGHT OF JULY 18. BOTH AREAS ARE INHABITED BY WHITES, MANY OF WHICH TOOK REFUGE DOWNTOWN DURING THE FIGHTING.
- 6. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTER MET AS SCHEDULED ON JULY 17, BUT ADJOURNED WHEN NONE OF THE FNLA MINISTERS AND SECRETARIES OF STATE SHOWED UP.
- 7. ACCORDING TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, BETWEEN 10,000
 AND 15,000 REFUGEES HAD BEEN SHIPPED OQT OF LUANDA BY JULY 17.
 ANOTHER 5,000 TO 10,000 REMAIN, BUT AS PEOPLE KEEP COMING IN
 TO THE CENTER OF TOWN, THERE IS NO WAY ACCURATELY TO ESTIMATE
 HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL EVENTUALLY REQUIRE ASSISTANCE. THE INTERNATIONAL
 RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE THINKS THE FIGURE OF THOSE WHO
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HAVE BEEN MOVED OUT SOUNDS HIGH, BUT HE DOES KNOW THAT THE PORTUGUESE HAVE BEEN CARRYING 400 TO 500 REFUGEES BY AIR EACH DAY TO CARMONA. THEY FLY DAY AND NIGHT USING OLD TRANSPORT PLANES.

8. AS ALWAYS THE NUMBER OF DEAD AND WOUNDED IS A MATTER OF SPECULTATION. I HAVE HEARD FIGURES RANGING FROM 300 TO 2,000. THE RED CROSS REP ESTIMATES 500, BUT ADMITS HE HAS NOTHING TO SUPPORT THE ESTIMATVGM ONLY TWO HOSPITALS WERE FUNCTIONING DURING THE FIGHT-

ING: MARIA PIA IN THE CENTER AND THE MILITARY HOSPITAL. IN ADDITION, PRIVATE CLINICS TOOK IN WOUNDED AND BOTH FNLA AND MPLA TREATED WOUNDED. MPLA PUT INTO SERVICE SEVERAL AMBULANCES IT RECEIVED PN A RECENT SHIPMENT. THE ONLY STATISTICS ON WOUNDED COME FROM MARIAO PIA. THE FOLLOWING ARE WAR WOUNDED TREATED EACH DAY:

JULY 10 - 33

JULY 11 - 49

JULY 12 - 39

JULY 13 - 88

JULY 14 - 37

JULY 15 - 10

MARIA PIA HAS THE REPUTATION OF A PRO-MPLA INSTITUTION. ADDITIONALLY IT IS FAR REMOVED FROM THE AREAS OF HEAVIEST FIGHTING. THE HOSPITAL THAT NORMALLY TAKES MOST OF THE DEAD AND WOUNDED, SAO PAULO, WAS NOT FUNCTIONING DURING THIS LAST CRISIS. AN INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TEAM OF TWO DOCTORS, ANESTHESIOLOGIST AND TWO NURSES THAT HAD COME DOWN FROM CARMONA TO ASSIST DURING THE TROUBLE HAS NOW RETURNED TO CARMONA.

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